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DIGEST

Claitor (SB 591)

Proposed law requires Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure to establish the Candidates Others PACS Education Trust Interest Credit (COPASETIC) program.

Proposed law provides that the COPASETIC account will be a trust fund program that receives the interest on a candidate's campaign contributions account and distributes such funds to the TOPS fund.

Proposed law provides that at a minimum, the certain basic specifications will be used to implement the COPASETIC program:

1. A foundation created and managed by the supervisory committee with the purpose of approving and authorizing COPASETIC accounts.
2. Participation in the COPASETIC program shall be voluntary. Any candidate electing to participate in the COPASETIC program shall file a certification of intent to participate with the supervisory committee.
3. COPASETIC accounts to be of a type approved and authorized by the supervisory committee and maintained only in financial institutions as approved and certified by the supervisory committee. Requires that campaign contributions be kept in one or more separate interest-bearing COPASETIC accounts maintained in a bank or savings and loan authorized by federal or state law to do business in Louisiana, the deposits of which are insured by any agency of the federal government.
4. The supervisory committee will establish rules and regulations governing the determination of a financial institution's eligibility to hold COPASETIC accounts and publish a list of the approved or certified eligible financial institutions on the Board of Ethics website.
5. Participation in the program will be voluntary for financial institutions.
6. The following principles will apply to campaign contributions under the program:
 - (a) No interest or income on COPASETIC accounts may be made available to or utilized by a candidate, his principal campaign committee, or a subsidiary committee.

- (b) Requires that interest and income be payable at least quarterly to the TOPS Fund.
- 7. The foundation is to prepare an annual report to the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs that summarizes the foundation's income, operating expenses, the amounts contributed to the respective entities listed in proposed law, and any other issues arising out of administration of the COPASETIC program.

Proposed law authorizes promulgation of rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of proposed law subject to oversight by the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

Proposed law requires that the COPASETIC program will commence no later than January 1, 2015.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Adds R.S. 18:1488)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

- 1. Changes the name of the program from "Interest On Candidate Contributions Trust Account (IOCCTA)" to the "Candidates Others PACS Education Trust Interest Credit (COPASETIC)".
- 2. Makes participation in the program voluntary rather than mandatory.
- 3. Delays the implementation of the program from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015.
- 4. Requires that interest and income be payable at least quarterly to the foundation and contributed solely to the TOPS Fund.